

Final Effort Made To Avert Rail Strike

Chicago, Oct. 27.—Ben W. Hooper, public member of the railroad labor board, this morning went to a meeting of chiefs of the big five railroad brotherhoods and their executive committees in the Masonic temple to make a final plea to call off the railroad strike set for next Sunday. The board's proposal to the brotherhood leaders was said to be assurance of no more cuts nor rule changes until pending cases were disposed of.

Mr. Hooper was accompanied by A. F. Whitney, vice-president of the Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen.

Mr. Hooper said before going to the meeting room that he was making the call unofficially and that he had "a vague possibility" for a settlement in mind, which he would outline to the union men.

More than 200 union men were assembled when the two railroad labor board members arrived.

The meeting was arranged by Walter L. McMenimen, labor member of the board, and a former official of the trainmen's organization. McMenimen, however, did not accompany Hooper and Whitney to the hall.

There has been much discussion in union and railroad circles as to the possibility of the railroad labor board's putting out an order that the strike is illegal and ordering it called off.

Board members would not discuss the report this forenoon except to say no such order had been prepared.

"I was not sent by the board, but went of my own volition," Mr. Hooper said, in explaining his visit to the meeting. "I still believe that the only basis of settlement is

the resolution adopted by the board the other day."

The resolution referred to urged the men to call off the strike and give the board a chance to act on all wage and rule changes that may be brought before it.

Blanton Keeps

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reasons for what the house was called upon to do, "the publication which is the basis of the charge is of such a character that it cannot be presented on the floor."

Mr. Mondell characterized the objectionable words in the affidavit inserted in the Congressional Record by Blanton as "unspeakably vile, foul, filthy, profane, blasphemous and obscene. The language used would subject one now mailing it to five years in jail."

Printed Profane Words.

Mr. Mondell said he knew of no instance where a member, exercising the right of leave to print, published profane or obscene matter in the Congressional Record.

Crowded galleries were on hand when the resolution was brought up, and the visitors being women, who, expecting a protracted row, had brought their lunches.

Mr. Blanton entered the chamber a moment before the chaplain's prayer and took his accustomed seat on the second row.

In concluding his speech Mr. Mondell declared:

"Men do some things in anger for which we forgive them. Men commit crimes under sudden, uncontrollable impulse, for which we must be lenient. Mr. Speaker, this is a crime against the house, its dignity, its honor—it is a crime against decency, against every law and usage of civilized man, done deliberately, on purpose, without regard to law or for the honor of this house."

In Own Defense.

Mr. Blanton was pale but smiling when Speaker Gillett gave him the privilege of the floor.

"If corridor reports are true," he said, "this will be my last speech in the house."

Referring to publication of the offending affidavits, Mr. Blanton said:

"With God as my witness, I had no intention other than protecting citizens in their rights. There is not an improper word used by me in the printed speech, and the sole and only document therein that has improper language in it is the sworn affidavit of a government employe that was filed with the public printer."

There was a request from the democratic side for Mr. Blanton to raise his voice but he declared he was physically unable to do so. Mr. Blanton said he "caused all improper words in the affidavit to be abbreviated."

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